

CLAIMS

1. A DNA selected from the group consisting of the following (a) through (e):

(a) a DNA encoding a protein comprising the amino acid sequence
5 set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2;

(b) a DNA comprising the coding region of the base sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1;

(c) a DNA encoding a protein comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2 which is modified by deletion and/or addition of one or more amino acid residues, and/or substitution with other amino acids, and functionally equivalent to the protein comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2;

(d) a DNA hybridizing to the DNA comprising the base sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1, and encoding a protein functionally equivalent to the protein comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2; and

(e) a DNA comprising a DNA according to any of (a) through (d) and a DNA encoding other peptide or polypeptide, encoding a fusion protein.

20 2. A vector having the DNA according to claim 1 inserted therein.

3. A transformant carrying the DNA according to claim 1 or the vector according to claim 2.

4. A protein encoded by the DNA according to claim 1.

5. A method for producing the protein according to claim 4, said method comprising the steps of culturing the transformant according to claim 3 and recovering the expressed protein from said transformant or the culture supernatant thereof.

6. An antibody binding to the protein according to claim 4.

30 7. A method of screening for a compound which binds to the protein according to claim 4, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) bringing the protein according to claim 4 into contact with a sample to be tested, and

(b) selecting a compound having the activity to bind to the protein according to claim 4.

35 | 8. A method for detecting or measuring the protein according to
claim 4, said method comprising bringing the antibody according to

claim 6 into contact with a test sample that apparently contains the protein according to claim 4, and detecting or measuring the formation of an immune complex of said antibody and said protein.

9. A polynucleotide hybridizing to the DNA comprising the base
5 sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 1 or a complementary strand thereof and having a chain length of at least 15 bases.

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